

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. I HAVE NEVER GOTTEN A VERIZON BILL THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND FULLY! I always have to call and get an answer to "what is this charge for! Please, I have two masters and still can't make heads or tails out of this bill. Even the people on the other side agree the bill is way too complex and complicated to understand. Help! This is reducing the productivity of the country. All the wasted time and the loss of productive activity. Unless of course you feel deciphering the bill is a value added activity in life! I don't . Steve.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.